

DISPOSAL OF WASTE AND DRAINAGE WATER FROM  
YUMA PROJECT, ARIZONA.

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JANUARY 17, 1921.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. HAYDEN, from the Committee on Irrigation of Arid Lands,  
submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 2610.]

The Committee on Irrigation of Arid Lands, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2610) to provide for the disposal of certain waste and drainage water from the Yuma project, Arizona, having had the same under consideration, report the bill back to the House with the recommendation that the bill to pass with the following amendment:

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 after the word "and," in line 12, page 1, and insert in lieu thereof "be placed to the credit of said project."

The testimony before the committee shows that the waste and drainage water from the Yuma reclamation project is now pumped, at a point near the international boundary line, over the levee which protects the farming lands of the project. Since this water must be and is now lifted to the height of the levee, it would undoubtedly be advantageous to the project to obtain some revenue from its disposal for use in Mexico rather than to waste the same. The bill grants no permanent right to the use of this water in Mexico because no obligation can be incurred for the delivery of any water at any time.

The Secretary of the Interior has recommended favorable action on the bill in the following letter addressed to the chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Lands:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, August 13, 1919.*

HON. REED SMOOT,  
*United States Senate.*

DEAR SENATOR: I am in receipt of your letter of July 29, transmitting several bills for consideration and suggestion, among them S. 2610. The bill is entitled as follows: "A bill to provide for the disposal of certain waste and drainage water from the Yuma project, Arizona."

The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to dispose of the waste and drainage waters at the southern end of the Yuma reclamation project, Arizona, which was

constructed under the provisions of the reclamation act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat., 388), on the best terms obtainable, without incurring any obligation for delivery of any specific quantity of water at any future time. It also provides that the proceeds from the disposal of said waters shall be covered into the reclamation fund and be employed in defraying the expenses incident to the delivery of such water, and any balance is to be expended under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior for improving and maintaining the river-protection works of the project.

In connection with the drainage system of Yuma project, a considerable flow of water is developed at the southern end near the boundary line between the United States and Mexico. The water at this point is lower in elevation than the ordinary stages of Colorado River near by, and it is therefore necessary to pump the water over the levee protective works in order to return it to the river. If this is not done, the water would otherwise flow into the territory of Mexico and international complications might arise on this account.

This water has considerable value if properly conserved, for use in Mexico, and in spite of the fact that no specific quantity would be guaranteed for future use, it is believed that the water could be disposed of at a figure which would aid in repaying some of the expense of handling the water and possibly leave a surplus which can be devoted to river protection, as indicated in the bill.

For the reasons given, the authority proposed to be conferred by the bill would be a definite advantage to the project, and I therefore recommend favorable action on the bill.

Cordially, yours,

FRANKLIN K. LANE, *Secretary.*

The amendment recommended by your committee is in accordance with the method provided in the reclamation law for the disposal of receipts from power developed on reclamation projects.

